took them into the lavatory to attend to their buttonings and unbuttonings, and she justified her attention by saying, " Now you have not wet your knickers", as though they certainly would have done so without her help. But her manner showed that her chief motive was, in fact, to get an opportunity of seeing the genitals of the boys, as well as to subdue the boys to dependence upon her, and so gain some alleviation of her own castration phantasies.

In the incident quoted on p. 141,17.5.26,^6 see the children occupied in their thought not only with the question of what makes the difference between male and female, but with the question of parental intercourse. There is no doubt that Dan's inquiry, " What do you call it when there's a he-and-a-her, a she-and-a-him together ? " may be taken as a question about what parents do in sexual intercourse, and this is confirmed by his shyness and hesitation. From the analysis of children, we know that one of the things they want to know is whether parental intercourse is good or bad—that is hurtful or helpful to each other and to the children inside the mother.

5. SEXUAL PLAY AND AGGRESSION

The incidents under this heading are closely related to the last group, but differentiated from them by greater activity. Some of the behaviour recorded shows the marked sadistic element in the sexual wishes of very small children towards adults, and in their phantasies of the nature of sexual inter-course between parents. Although these direct wishes and phantasies belong to the genital level of libidinal development, they nevertheless retain many of the characteristics of the

[1] " While sewing in the afternoon, Priscilla told us that she had seen a bull' while on the way to school. Dan said, ' a bull, what's a bull ? ' Priscilla said, [f]a he-cow'. Dan said, ' But isn't a cow a

he ? ' Pris-
cilla and Mrs. I. said,' No/ They spoke of he ' and' she'
animals, and
Mrs. I. gave them the names ' male' and ' female'.
They instanced
the male and female among the children in school, the
mummies and
daddies and other grown-ups they knew. Then Dan
said, ' What do
you call it when there's a he-and-a-her, a she-and-a-
him together?'
Mrs. I. was not quite sure what he referred to, but said,
' Do you mean
when they are together in the same room ? ' He said, '
When they are
touching.' She touched his hand, and said, 'Do you
mean like this ?—
We haven't one word to refer to this. We say " he and
she are touch-
ing ".' He said, with a shy look and a little hesitation, '
No, I mean
when they are very close together, standing up.' The
conversation
was broken off at that point by the interruption of a
visitor."